

Appl. No. 10/530,890  
In re VILLAGRASA et al.  
Reply to Final Office Action of Mar. 10, 2009

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A handle mounted to a rear frame (20) of a door in a motor vehicle, comprising a gripping part (1a) including a groove (2), and means for transmitting the movement (6, 7, 9 to 13) of said gripping part (1a) to a lock so as to activate a bolt of said lock to open said door, wherein said transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13) are arranged in a direction substantially parallel to said gripping part (1a), and mainly in a lower zone thereof, so as to optimize an internal longitudinal space of said rear frame (20);

said handle further comprising a handle support (4) fastened in said rear frame of said door and on which said gripping part (1a) of said handle (1) and at least part of said movement transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13) being arranged;

said gripping part (1a) comprising at each of its ends a guide element (6) cooperating with said handle support (4) to allow said gripping part (1a) to move in translation relative to said rear frame of said door when actuated by the user.

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

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Claim 5 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping part (1a) moves in translation when actuated by the user; the direction of said translational movement of said gripping part is oriented at an angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the surface of the door.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping part comprises two guide elements (6) each located at one end of the gripping element, which can slide along a rail (7) of the support (4), allowing the gripping part to move in translation when it is actuated by the user.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The handle as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a panel (5) located in the same plane as an external surface of said rear frame (20) at a certain distance from the handle (1) so that said panel (5) conceals said handle (1) from the outside of said vehicle, and wherein the translational movement of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1), when actuated by the user, is in a certain direction oriented at an angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the surface of said panel (5).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, in a side zone thereof closest to the groove (2) for insertion of the hand, and a longitudinal protective wing (8) for covering said handle.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for transmitting the movement of the handle (1) comprise a pivoting pin (9) parallel to the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1), having two arms (10) each located at one end of the latter, each arm (10) having a shank (11) and each shank (11) being associated respectively with a guide element (6) of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1); and a lever (12) which receives the movement of the arm (10) located at the bottom and transmits it to a rod (3) of the lock which activates the bolt for opening said door.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 9, wherein said lever (12) is located in the lower zone of said handle (1).

Claims 11-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): [[The]] A handle mounted on a rear frame (20) of a door as claimed in claim 21 [,.] in a motor vehicle comprising:  
a gripping part (1a) that can be actuated manually via a groove (2);  
means for transmitting the movement (6, 7, 9 to 13) of said gripping part (1a) to a lock so as to activate a bolt of said lock to open said door;  
a handle support (4) fastened in said frame of said door and supporting said gripping part (1a) of said handle (1) and at least part of said movement transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13);

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a panel (5) located in the same plane as an external surface of said rear frame (20) at a certain distance from the handle (1) so that said panel (5) conceals said handle (1) from the outside of said vehicle; and

means for fastening the support (4) of the handle (1) to the panel (5);  
wherein said transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13) are arranged in a direction substantially parallel to said gripping part (1a), and mainly in a lower zone thereof, so as to optimize an internal longitudinal space of said rear frame (20); and

wherein said fastening means comprise two pairs of wings integral with said support (4), located respectively on each upper and lower surface of the support, said wings being mutually parallel and separated by a certain distance; and two U-shaped elements integral with the panel (5), which are coupled respectively between each pair of wings, each pair of wings being respectively fastened to each U-shaped element using a pin or a similar component.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): [[The]] A handle mounted on a rear frame (20) of a door as claimed in claim 23 [,.] in a motor vehicle comprising:  
a gripping part (1a) that can be actuated manually via a groove (2);  
means for transmitting the movement (6, 7, 9 to 13) of said gripping part (1a) to a lock  
so as to activate a bolt of said lock to open said door;

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a handle support (4) fastened in said frame of said door and supporting said gripping part (1a) of said handle (1) and at least part of said movement transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13);

a panel (5) located in the same plane as an external surface of said rear frame (20) at a certain distance from the handle (1) so that said panel (5) conceals said handle (1) from the outside of said vehicle; and

means for fastening the support (4) and the panel (5) to the rim of the rear frame (20) of the door, particularly the rear door, of the motor vehicle;

whercin said transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13) are arranged in a direction substantially parallel to said gripping part (1a), and mainly in a lower zone thereof, so as to optimize an internal longitudinal space of said rear frame (20); and

wherein said fastening means preferably comprise at least two fastening elements which couple the support (4) to the rim of the frame (20) and at least one fastening element which retains the panel (5) on the rim of the frame (20).

Claims 25 and 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (previously presented): The handle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a protective element (24) independent of the gripping part, which prevents dust or rain from entering the handle.